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LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 15 April 1997 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing violations of Iraq's territory and airspace being committed by Turkish armed forces.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-10401 (E) 180497

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Annex

Letter dated 15 April 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to my letter of 25 February 1997 concerning the continuing violations of the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq being committed by Turkish armed forces (S/1997/158) and should like to inform you that, on a variety of pretexts, such forces are still engaging in military operations inside Iraq's territory and in its airspace. The particulars are set forth hereunder.

1. On 11 January 1997 Turkish village guards penetrated inside Iraqi territory in the Ufkuzi area to the north-east of Zakho district with a view to gathering intelligence.

2. On 17 January 1997 two Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded Karah slope situated to the south of Amadiyah district inside Iraqi territory.

3. On 18 January 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded the villages of Sita and Sidah situated to the east of Amadiyah district inside Iraqi territory and those of Karafi and Bazah situated to the north-west of Amadiyah district inside Iraqi territory. The bombardment of the latter village resulted in the killing of an Iraqi citizen who was one of its inhabitants. On the same date, Turkish village guards penetrated the village of Awrah situated to the north-west of Amadiyah district inside Iraqi territory and engaged in military operations.

4. On 19 January 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded Armisht area situated to the south-east of Zakho district inside Iraqi territory.

5. On 24 January 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded the village of Sharanish situated to the north of Zakho district inside Iraqi territory. The bombardment resulted in the death of some livestock.

6. On 25 January 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded the village of Banik situated to the north-east of Zakho district inside Iraqi territory. On the same date, Turkish artillery also bombarded Hash, Sinat Ji, Rizqiyyah, Hawsi and Hawrah situated to the north of Amadiyah district inside Iraqi territory.

7. On 13 February 1997 a Turkish military force reinforced by Turkish village guards and supported by a number of Turkish fighter aircraft penetrated inside Iraqi territory in the direction of the Kani Rash sector.

8. Between 1200 and 1247 hours on 13 February 1997 eight sorties of Turkish fighter aircraft were detected over the areas of Shirawan, Amadiyah, Aqrah and Shaqlawah, to the east of Irbil inside Iraqi airspace.

9. On 13 February 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded the villages of Khazinah, Mahbab and Wadi Dawlat Raqqah situated to the east of Kuysanjaq district inside Iraqi territory. The bombardment resulted in the death of three

persons and the wounding of others, as well as damage to various houses and the death of livestock.

10. At 1200 hours on 14 February 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded the areas of Harunah, Bitas and Bizal situated to the south-east of Zakho district inside Iraqi territory.

11. On 14 February 1997, a small Turkish force crossed into Iraqi territory in the direction of the Kani Rash sector to the north of Randuz district. Supported by Turkish helicopters, it searched the area of the border strip, including the Kulli Rash area, and withdrew inside Turkish territory on the same date.

12. Between 1407 and 1415 hours on 28 February 1997 a Turkish fighter aircraft was detected on an aerial sortie in Iraqi airspace over the Pibu region.

13. On 28 February 1997 a Turkish helicopter gunship violated Iraqi airspace to a depth of 50 kilometres over the Pibu region in the northern Iraqi district of Amadiyah.

14. On 8 March 1997 two Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded the region of Hurki and the slopes and heights surrounding the region of Nazdur in the north-east of Zakho district, inside Iraqi territory. One local citizen was injured by the bombardment.

15. On 8 March 1997 Turkish artillery bombarded the slopes and heights of Kari Shish and Jalda in the north-east of Zakho district, inside Iraqi territory.

16. On 8 March 1997 two Turkish fighter aircraft and one helicopter engaged in reconnaissance along the border strip, within the restricted area between Ufkuzi and Sinat in the north-east of Zakho district, inside Iraqi territory.

17. At 1200 hours on 11 March 1997 six Turkish fighter aircraft dropped napalm on the Iraqi villages of Birkaman, Daraw, Kulit, Litan and Bashgan in the Iraq-Turkey-Iran triangle, destroying five houses and injuring a number of citizens.

18. Between 1220 and 1228 hours on 15 March 1997 two sorties of Turkish military aircraft were detected inside Iraqi airspace.

19. On 15 March 1997 two Turkish military aircraft violated Iraqi airspace to a depth of 15 kilometres east of Zakho district and south of Amadiyah.

20. Between 1957 and 2037 hours on 21 March 1997 a Turkish military aircraft was detected making a sortie over the region of Zakho, inside Iraqi airspace.

21. On 21 March 1997 two Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded the villages of Nazdur, Bazi and Bayshalah north-east of Amadiyah district inside Iraqi territory. The bombardment killed one local citizen and a number of cattle.

In conveying to you the details of these Turkish violations, the Government of Iraq expresses its condemnation of such acts of military aggression. It does so because the practices of the Turkish forces, as represented by their repeated

shelling of towns and villages in Iraq and their unlawful incursions into Iraqi territory, are in flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and the inviolability of its territory and airspace, just as they are incompatible with relations of good-neighbourliness, the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the 1926 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement. These practices may also undermine stability in the region as a whole, which is suffering primarily from the anomalous situation created by the United States of America and its allies in northern Iraq.

As stated in my previous letter, the Turkish Government bears full international responsibility for the acts of aggression it commits inside Iraqi territory and for all their consequences, regardless of the alleged reasons it gives.

The Government of Iraq reserves its legitimate right under international law to seek compensation for the damage caused by these Turkish violations of its territory and its airspace and for the human suffering inflicted on Iraqi citizens by these actions. Through you, it renews its call to the Government of Turkey to reconsider its policy with respect to the situation in northern Iraq, to promote the collaboration of the two countries on the basis of considerations of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect for sovereignty and to eliminate the reasons for the persistence of a situation that jeopardizes the interests of both countries.

As, through you, I reiterate my country's call to its Turkish neighbour to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, I express the hope that the United Nations will meet its responsibilities as laid down in the Charter and that it will halt the intimidation and aggression to which my country is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq